TEXT 4a

I moved slowly and painfully along the bank. I could see alligators in the big river and they could see me. They started to swim towards me. I could see their ugly mouths full of sharp teeth. I tried to hurry, but I had to walk carefully. I had to watch the ground in front of me. I had to watch for snakes, spiders, ants and alligators. The flies and the mosquitoes were always there. They never stopped. Buzz – buzz – bite – buzz – buzz. The flies were the worst. They stung me again and again. Then I remembered about the flies. They lay their eggs under your skin. You must get them out quickly. The eggs grow into terrible maggots, and the maggots eat your flesh.
"I must go on," I thought. "I must find help. I must find people. Where are all the Indians?"

TEXT 4b

I had to rest so I lay down on the sand. I shut my eyes and tried to sleep, but I heard another strange noise. I looked behind me. Then I saw them. Five baby alligators lay close behind me. They were very small. They couldn't hurt me, but their parents could.
"Get up, Suzanne," I said. "Move on. You can't go to sleep next to an alligator family."

TEXT 4c

I walked and walked. Stick – step – rest – stick – step – rest. Day followed night and night followed day. When did I get the maggots out of my arms and legs? Was it on the fourth day or the fifth? I had a metal ring on one finger. I took this ring off and broke it. Then I made a knife from it and dug out the maggots.
"I must kill them all," I thought, "or they will kill me."
But other flies came and laid their eggs in the holes. I poked into my arms with my 'knife' and dug the new maggots out. It hurt but it helped. "These maggots will not eat me," I thought. "I'm going to kill them first!"
I started to hear voices in my head.

TEXT 4d

The birds sang, "Kill you, kill you, kill you." I didn't want to hear them. I only wanted to sleep. I wanted to sleep for days. I shut my eyes and took another step.
Suddenly a bird cried out. I heard my mother's voice.
"Listen to the birds, Suzanne. Always listen to the birds, they will tell you about the jungle."
The bird cried again. "Danger, danger."
I opened my eyes. There was a large snake in front of me. I started to scream but my voice stuck in my throat. I couldn't move. Then I saw – the snake was asleep. Slowly and very quietly I walked round the tree. I found a clear piece of ground and lay down. I didn't try to dig out any maggots. I didn't drink. I could only lie there.
"I want to sleep," I thought. "I can't go on. I must sleep. Sleep will end my pain. Sleep."

Questions 4

Can you guess how the story will end?

Listen to the cassette again to find out about the ending. But make up your own ending before you listen to the ending on the cassette.

Listening 4

Take notes.